

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 DOTE-00
COME-00 HUD-01 AGRE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 /128 W
-----043078 071849Z /72

R 071759Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0175
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
DIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 07076

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PROP, PINT, UR, PARM
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV'S SIBERIAN TRIP: ONWARD TO VLADIVOSTOK
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REF: MOSCOW 6633

SUMMARY. BREZHNEV'S PRESENCE IN VLADIVOSTOK PROVIDED THE
SETTING FOR A MAJOR SPEECH ON SALT (REPORTED SEPTTEL),
DELIVERED BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY JUST AFTER HE OBSERVED
FAR EASTERN FLEET MANEUVERS APRIL 7. WHILE IN VLADI-

VOSTOK BREZHNEV ALSO MET WITH REGIONAL PARTY LEADERS TO DISCUSS LOCAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. ON THE WAY FROM IRKUTSK (REFTEL) TO VLADIVOSTOK, LEONID IL'ICH STOPPED IN CHITA, SKOVORODINO, AND KHABAROVSK. BREZHNEV HAS NOW BEEN ON THE ROAD FOR OVER TEN DAYS, AND PRESUMABLY WILL RETURN TO MOSCOW BY AIR THIS WEEKEND--ALTHOUGH NO ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT HIS ITINERARY AFTER VLADIVOSTOK HAS YET BEEN MADE. JUDGING FROM TV COVERAGE OF HIS DOINGS IN VLADIVOSTOK, HE REMAINS IN APPARENTLY GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION, ALTHOUGH HIS VOICE WAS CARRIED ONLY BRIEFLY. ZAMYATIN'S INCLUSION IN BREZHNEV'S PARTY PROBABLY WAS LARGELY IN ANTICIPATION OF BREZHNEV'S FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH IN VLADIVOSTOK. ACCORDING TO ONE RUMOR, WHICH STRIKES US AS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE, USTINOV'S INCLUSION MAY MEAN HE IS BEING GROOMED TO REPLACE KOSYGIN. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING HIS APRIL 2 VISIT TO IRKUTSK (REFTEL), BREZHNEV CONTINUED ALONG THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RR TOWARD VLADIVOSTOK,

--STOPPING AT CHITA FOR AN APRIL 3 MEETING WITH LOCAL MILITARY OFFICIALS AND A VISIT TO A NEARBY MILITARY INSTALLATION, WHERE HE BEGAN HIS MILITARY CAREER IN THE 1930'S;

--MEETING APRIL 4 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF KOMSOMOL
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AND MILITARY WORKERS ON THE "BAM" (BAYKAL-AMURSKIY RR LINE) AT SKOVORODINO, WHERE THE BAM WILL EVENTUALLY BE JOINED BY A NORTH-SOUTH SPUR WITH THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RR;
AND

--VIEWING TACTICAL MILITARY MANEUVERS NEAR THE CITY OF KHABAROVSK ON APRIL 5.

2. IN VLADIVOSTOK, BREZHNEV MET WITH REGIONAL PARTY OFFICIALS APRIL 6 FOR A DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC MATTERS. ACCORDING TO THE TASS ACCOUNT, THE LOCAL PARTY BOSSES COMPLAINED ABOUT SHORTCOMING IN THE WORK OF RAIL TRANSPORT AND ABOUT DELAYS IN COMPLETING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS BECAUSE OF SHORTCOMINGS IN THE WORK OF A NUMBER OF MINISTRIES. IN HIS REPLY, BREZHNEV APPARENTLY REFUSED TO LET THE LOCAL OFFICIALS PASS THE BUCK COMPLETELY TO THE RR AND THE MINISTRIES, NOTING THAT LOCAL RESERVES MUST BE UTILIZED AND THE HIGH TURN-OVER RATE OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE MUST BE OVERCOME BY MORE ATTENTION TO CREATURE COMFORTS LIKE HOUSING, CLOTHING AND DIET.

3. BREZHNEV'S FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH (SEPTTEL) WAS MADE

ON THE DECK OF THE CRUISER "ADMIRAL SENYAVIN," JUST AFTER
LEONID IL'ICH HAD VIEWED MANEUVERS BY UNITS OF THE FAR
EASTERN FLEET.

4. IN ADDITION TO DAILY, FRONT-PAGE PRESS COVERAGE OF
THE TRIP, SPECIAL MID-DAY TV NEWS PROGRAMS WERE DEVOTED
TO BREZHNEV'S ACTIVITIES IN VLADIVOSTOK APRIL 6 AND 7.
THE APRIL 6 PROGRAM SHOWED HIS ARRIVAL IN VLADIVOSTOK
AND FILM CLIPS OF THE MEETING WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS, WITH
THE TV ANNOUNCER IN MOSCOW READING A LENGTHY TASS ACCOUNT
OF THE MEETING. THE TV SPECIAL APRIL 7 SHOWED LEONID
IL'ICH ARRIVING AT THE PIER, BOARDING THE "ADMIRAL SEN-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 07076

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USSALTWO

YAVIN" AND BRIEFLY GREETING THE ASSEMBLED CREW. THE TV ANNOUNCER IN MOSCOW THEN PROCEEDED TO READ THE FULL TEXT OF BREZHNEV'S SPEECH. AS BRIEFLY SHOWN IN THESE APRIL CONFIDENTIAL

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6 AND 7 TV PROGRAMS, BREZHNEV APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION, AS HE HAS SEEMED IN MEDIA COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THIS LENGTHY JOURNEY.

5. BREZHNEV'S APRIL 7 FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH HELPS TO EXPLAIN THE PRESENCE OF CPSU CC "INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION" CHIEF ZAMYATIN ON THE TRIP.

6. THE PRC MILITARY ATTACHE HERE HAS USED THIS OCCASION TO RESURFACE HIS BELIEF THAT USTINOV IS LIKELY TO REPLACE KOSYGIN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE PRC ATTACHE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN TOLD BY UNSPECIFIED SOVIET SOURCES THAT KOSYGIN WANTS TO RETIRE AND THAT BREZHNEV FAVORS USTINOV AS KOSYGIN'S REPLACEMENT DUE TO USTINOV'S SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE AS OVERSEER OF THE SOVIET ARMAMENTS EFFORT. (WHILE IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT USTINOV MIGHT EVENTUALLY REPLACE KOSYGIN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THE OBVIOUS MILITARY ASPECTS OF BREZHNEV'S TRIP WOULD SEEM TO PROVIDE AMPLE JUSTIFICATION FOR USTINOV'S INCLUSION. IN ANY CASE, IT SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT KNOWLEDGEABLE SOVIET SOURCES WOULD CONFIDE SUCH INFORMATION TO THE PRC EMBASSY.) TOON

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTE, DISARMAMENT, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, PERSONNEL TRAVEL, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, SPEECHES, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)
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TAGS: PROP, PINT, PARM, UR, (BREZHNEV, LEONID IL'ICH)
To: STATE
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